



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

SAID G. OSMAN

Atty. Ref.: 4077-2

Serial No. 10/038,682

Group: Unassigned

Filed: January 8, 2002

Examiner: Unassigned

For: UNI-DIRECTIONAL DYNAMIC SPINAL FIXATION DEVICE

* * * * *

March 4, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Add the following claims:

21. (New) Apparatus for compressing a bone graft between adjacent vertebrae, comprising:

a spinal fixation device including first and second discrete plates having openings for cooperation with fasteners to secure the plates to respective vertebrae on opposite sides of the bone graft;

said first and second plates having interlocking elements cooperable to enable progressive displacement of the plates relative to one another in a first direction to shorten the distance between the openings of the respective plates and to lock the

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